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The Daily Gamecock, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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MEET YOUR CANDIDATES



Cuenin for president

Parker Jennette / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

‘A lot of students feel the way I do’

Cuenin shows personal, professional sides, hopes second campaign is the charm

Cassie Cope
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There are two John Cuenins. Initially, the video sounds like an attack ad on a flip-flopper, but it’s actually promoting the presidential candidate. In it, one Cuenin wears a suit and tie. The other, a plaid button-down and TOMS shoes, but only around his apartment. You may remember (either) Cuenin from last year’s elections when he ran against former Vice President Katie Thompson, and lost. But since that election, he said he has matured. “I didn’t run as good of a campaign and it taught

CUENIN ● 3



Saleeby for president

Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

‘If it’s meant to happen, it’s going to’

After tumultuous transition, Saleeby seeks presidency

Colin Campbell
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It was 11:30 p.m. on a Wednesday night, and Emily Saleeby’s phone was ringing. She answered it with trepidation, and on the other line was then-Student Body Vice President Katie Thompson, confirming rumors Saleeby had already heard. “I’m resigning,” Thompson told her. It wasn’t a major shock to Saleeby; several students and administrators raised eyebrows over Thompson’s actions to support USC’s fraternities against the university’s suspension of their recruitment due to alcohol violations.

SALEEBY ● 3



Tracy for president

Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

‘A concrete plan for the future’

Tracy quietly vies for top office touting ‘strong track record’

Thad Moore
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Kenny Tracy is not the most outspoken candidate for student body president. “I’m still very much a shy person,” he said Wednesday afternoon in the Russell House Starbucks, his voice all but drowned out by the murmur of conversation and whirring blenders around him. “The first day of class, I might talk to the person next to me, but I’m not the one who just barges in the room and says, ‘Hey, everybody.’” But shyness is relative and Tracy today is “like night and day,” he said, from the person he was in high school. “I wasn’t very involved in high school,

TRACY ● 3



Mizzell for vice president

Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

‘Follow your passion’

Mizzell, running unopposed, already working on initiatives

Amanda Coyne
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Chase Mizzell doesn’t need your vote, but he still wants it. “On filing day, I came back from class and I walked in to the Student Life Office and someone said ‘Congratulations! You’re running unopposed,’ and it was really bittersweet,” Mizzell said. Many in Mizzell’s position might see an unopposed candidacy as an opportunity to tone down the campaigning and take a breather, but the second-year international business student has instead fast-tracked making good on his campaign promises. “I was prepared to run a full-on campaign. It’s been exciting to start working on initiatives and getting people involved. I wanted to prove that I didn’t need to be there for votes, but I wanted to

MIZZELL ● 2



Gibson for treasurer

Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

‘It just comes down to experience’

Gibson campaigns on position, knowledge of budget

Kristyn Sanito
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At first glance, Coy Gibson doesn’t look like he belongs on the dance floor — but the student body treasurer candidate grew up taking cotillion. For the most part, Gibson is all business. He explains his concerns and goals for Student Government in a straightforward manner. The second-year political science student from Lugoff, S.C., is currently the chairman of SG’s Senate Finance Committee. Previously, he served on Freshman Council, where he co-chaired the Freshman Outreach Committee, before attaining a seat in the student senate for the College of Arts and Sciences. “When it comes down to for USC finances, it just comes down to experience,” he said. “When we meet with organization leaders and deliberate what

GIBSON ● 2



Ibreak for treasurer

Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

‘I saw room for improvement’

Ibreak wants to bring fresh perspective to SG finances

Kathryn Kranjc
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When asked to identify the challenges in his first-ever student government campaign, Yousef Ibreak pauses thoughtfully and gives a nervous laugh. He excuses himself from the table at Pandini’s to refill his drink and mull over the question. When he returns, he takes a sip and very calmly responds. “I guess the hardest part has just been time management and prioritizing things,” he said. “This campaign has been something I think about nonstop, so just switching zones from campaign mode to academic mode has been challenging.” A confident but honest answer from the youngest candidate in this year’s race for executive office. A first-year finance and economics student from Irmo, SC, Ibreak has indeed shaken up the status

IBREAK ● 2

WEATHER

Monday
56° 35°
Tuesday
55° 39°

MIX



Valentine’s movies
Check out Sydney Patterson’s guide to the best romantic films available on Netflix Instant.
See page 6

VIEWPOINTS



SG endorsements
The editorial staff endorses candidates for president, vice president and treasurer in the SG elections.
See page 5

SPORTS



Women’s hoops
Gamecocks matched last season’s SEC win total with Sunday’s victory over Florida.
See page 10

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7:30 pm russell house ballroom c

thursday, feb. 23
Eating Disorders Discussion
real students who struggle speak out
4 pm russell house room 315



Carolina Beautiful is an annual campus-wide initiative to promote positive body image and redefine beauty.
learn more at www.sa.sc.edu/shs/cw/cb

BE
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MIZZELL • Continued from 1

be,” Mizzell said.

Talk to Mizzell for two minutes and it’s evident that this doesn’t come from a desire for good PR or to boost his reputation. Aside from his involvement in Student Government, Mizzell serves as a university ambassador and EMPOWER diversity peer educator. His drive to succeed seems to come from an innate drive to see the university and community thrive.

Mizzell values service; this past year, he implemented the Second Servings program, which takes leftover food from USC’s various dining options and donates them to area families and veterans in need. Leadership development and completing promised projects are big

parts of Mizzell’s vision as well, but he places high importance on improving the public view of SG.

“One of the biggest, biggest things is that we will be working incrementally to change the culture and perception of Student Government,” Mizzell said. “It can’t be done through promises of being connected ... We have to spend this year making that difference. For now, campaigns can promise what they will, but if we don’t improve then the distrust will remain.”

Mizzell’s passion is evident in all he does, so it’s fitting that when asked what the one thing he’d want the student body to associate with Vice President Chase Mizzell, he said, after a long pause:

“The one thing that I tell people is to follow your passion.”

GIBSON • Continued from 1

we’re going to do with funding, I have a combined 50 hours straight being in the conference room and the SG office ... And when you have that experience behind you, you know what’s going on.”

Through serving as a resident mentor at Capstone House, Gibson became a peer mentor for a sixth grader at Hand Middle School. Gibson is also a leadership scholar with the Carolina Leadership Initiative, where students are given grants for their initiatives.

“It keeps me grounded,” Gibson said. “I find my niche in serving others.”

Gibson approaches some of the goals he has for SG and student organizations with

a quote his dad taught him when he was little: “What the mind of man conceive and believe, the mind of man can achieve.”

“If you think it, you can do it,” Gibson said. “We can go as far as we think we can go, and my job is to make sure I leave the door open wide ... It’s important for us as a university to continually want to get more people involved, to find better, more efficient ways to do things.”

Gibson says that his campaign slogan “Together Let’s” primarily focuses on developing others into leaders and working together to achieve goals.

“I want others to grow as well. That’s what ‘Together Let’s’ means for me,” Gibson said. “That’s why I’m an RM; that’s how I serve others.”

IBREAK • Cont. from 1

quo of the competition by running for Student Body Treasurer with only six months of Student Government experience on his record.

Ibreak himself admits that he’s only been to two Student Senate sessions as a Freshman Council member. However, he’s not the least bit diffident about his lack of experience. He sees his newness to Student Government as an advantage over his opponent, second-year political science student and Senate Finance Committee Chair Coy Gibson, whose position has

traditionally been seen as precedent to Student Body Treasurer.

“The more I looked into the financial aspect of SG the more vague answers I got,” Ibreak said. “The process of the Senate Finance Committee wasn’t very well-known. I saw room for improvement and thought I’d be the person to do it.”

Outside of serving on the Freshman Council, Ibreak divides his time between homework and giving campus tours as a Student Ambassador. With three years left at USC, he still has several items to cross off his college

bucket list — among them joining Carolina Service Council on an alternative break service trip (he plans on going to New Orleans in March), joining the Roosevelt Institute and playing on an intramural soccer team. However, some of those goals may be deferred depending on the results of the election. As a freshman, he’s trying not to let himself get too distracted.


“You want to immerse yourself in as many activities as you can,” Ibreak said. “But one thing that has always been instilled in me is that academics is No. 1.”

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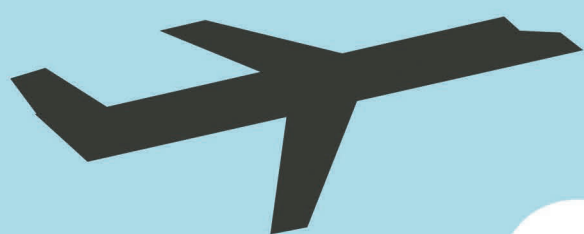
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SALEEBY • Continued from 1

But still, the implications for Saleeby, then a sophomore, were mind-blowing.

The Florence native, who had only moved into her post as president pro tempore three days prior, was next in line for the vice presidency of the student body.

“I had less than 24 hours’ notice that I’d be representing 28,000 students the next morning,” Saleeby said. “I didn’t know how to respond. I never thought I’d be vice president.”

The thought kept her up all night, but the following day, Saleeby opened the glass door of the Student Life office on the second floor of the Russell House and felt her anxieties suddenly evaporate.

“When I stepped through that door, I was ready to go,” she said. “I knew people wouldn’t take me seriously if I even looked like didn’t know what I was doing. I was focused on making it the smoothest transition possible.”

Now in her third year at USC, Saleeby, a management and marketing student, remembers the situation and initially being uneasy in her new role. But soon she was presiding over the Senate, representing the university

and SG, and feeling like a vice president.

“(Student Body Treasurer) Emily (Supil) and (Student Body President) Joe (Wright) helped a lot,” Saleeby said. “Meeting with Jerry (Brewer, longtime associate vice president for student affairs), starting to know (USC President Harris) Pastides — developing those relationships made it real. It really sunk in. I started seeing the university from a whole different perspective.”

Supil said Saleeby transitioned extremely well. “She’d met with Katie the day after. From there it was basically talking to every senate chair. She was really proactive in interacting with all of the senators.”

Wright lauded Saleeby’s poise in taking on the vice presidency and said the experience will help her, should she win the election. “She brought a new breath of excitement to Student Government. It’s given her a lot of executive experience. A lot of people don’t fully understand what these positions entail. She’s worked with the president and the treasurer, and she fully understands what it take to be successful.”

Saleeby hopes to bring that experience and those relationships into the role of student body president. She points to initiatives she’s helped to move forward

that she would continue as president: a fraternity life task force, improving student ticketing and an African-American history wall to name a few.

Saleeby, who served her freshman year in the Residence Hall Association before becoming a resident mentor and joining the Senate last year, acknowledges that she hasn’t earned her positions in SG so far. She was appointed to pro tempore after the one before her, Eeshwar Chandrasekar, stepped down to study abroad. Then, Thompson’s resignation handed her the vice presidency. But she contends it’s not about how you get to a position that matters; it’s what you do there.

And besides, she believes things happen for a reason. “There’s a reason Eeshwar resigned,” Saleeby said. “There’s a reason Katie resigned. If it’s meant to happen, it’s going to happen.”

She remembers walking through Russell House freshman year, seeing a plaque with names of former student body presidents and thinking fleetingly, “What if I ran?”

Saleeby will soon know the answer. This time, she’s confident. After all, she’s been planning her campaign for months — decades, to a candidate who’s stepped up before in less than a day.

TRACY • Continued from 1

so I wasn’t really passionate about anything.”

At USC, he’s found that passion in Dance Marathon, Student Government and intramural sports, including “all kinds of sports I never thought I’d play,” he said, like soccer, basketball, flag football, sand volleyball and floor hockey — though not entirely with the success he hopes for.

“I haven’t quite gotten the (championship) shirt yet,” he added. “We’re still shooting for that.”

But his “niche,” he said, is in SG, which he says helped shape his personality and made him more outgoing, even early on in his college career.

“Freshman Council helped a lot, because I

was thrust into a group of proven leaders,” he said. “It was either adapt or go to the wayside.”

His time in SG since has been dictated more by plugging away at his niche than by an overriding ambition.

“Some people come in, from what I’ve gathered talking to different people, freshman year and they’re like, ‘Okay, I need to take this step, this step and this step to be student body president,’” he said. “That wasn’t me at all.”

But Tracy, currently the secretary of student services, said he doesn’t seek validation from within SG so much as from students who are more “out

of the loop,” including the core group of friends he met living in Bates House his freshman year, which he regards as a bonding experience in itself.

“They aren’t involved in a bunch of extracurricular activities,” he said. “When I do programs like Carolina Cab or safety walks or stuff like that, and I get random responses from them, saying like, ‘Oh, I saw this. Really, really good job,’ from people who aren’t necessarily in the loop ... that’s kind of he impact I want to have.”

Tracy said he hoped he could establish programs that will impact “a wide range of students” for years to come and his emphasis

is on feasibility over grandiose plans.

Among his key points: reforming USC’s advisement process, bringing the Student Legal Service initiative to fruition, establishing a “Go Garnet” sustainability program and revamping the rewards system for lesser-attended sports.

“I don’t really have a big program I’m trying to get off the ground next year that I’m not already working on,” he said. “A lot of [my platform] is tweaking what we already have.”

Likewise, the candidate himself is fairly understated. Tracy doesn’t dominate the headlines

and tends to prefer quiet, behind-the-scenes leadership. He worked on establishing Carolina Cab and Student Legal Services, but former Vice President Katie Thompson and vice presidential candidate Chase Mizzell have dominated much of the attention surrounding those programs.

But he said his involvement with them reflects a strong track record in SG and matches a concrete plan for the coming year.

“I honestly think that a student body president needs to have a track record for getting things done,” Tracy said. “I’ve proven to students that

they’re electing someone not just based on promises; there’s substance behind what I’m saying. I feel like that’s what I have to offer. [It’s] not only what you’ve done in the past but having a concrete plan for the future. It’s not just vague generalizations of what needs to get done.”

Between the two, Tracy says he — with his friends back home in Marietta, Ga. — has found the product of a once-uninvolved high school student who’s found his niche.

“I go back home, and I talk to my friends, and I tell them the stuff I’ve been doing here,” he said. “They’re like, ‘Who are you?’”

CUENIN • Continued from 1

me how to run something like this and run an organization, because essentially your campaign is an organization,” Cuenin said. “It also kind of let me take a step back and look at different parts of my life.”

Two months after he lost the vice president race, Cuenin’s obligations with the Boys Scouts of America ended. He had been a youth member of the Boy Scouts since he was seven and had to stop because he reached the age limit of 21.

After the Boy Scouts ended, Cuenin pledged the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Last semester was Cuenin’s first in the fraternity. He said he feels like his brothers are a family and they all value of integrity, academic excellence and leadership like he does.

Will being in a fraternity give Cuenin the edge he lacked last year? Although he said some people are wary about the fact he joined last semester, Cuenin persists it wasn’t a political decision. “I’m not running this campaign to simply be

elected by the Greeks,” Cuenin said. “I’m running this campaign to be elected by students who actually feel the same way I do — which a lot of students do.”

Cuenin describes himself as a candidate with a true vision for SG and for the student body. He’s played the role of the outsider on this campaign, despite his experience, claiming he wants to revitalize the organization.

“I would just work my hardest to make it so that Student Government rose back to the prominence that it once held at this university,” Cuenin said.

As president, Cuenin plans to attend as many student organization meetings as possible, and help coordinate their events to be successful. Cuenin also claims to be open to input from any student.

So whether you vote for Cuenin the politician with glasses and a vision, or Cuenin the fraternity brother who likes Cook-out and Mumford & Sons, he’s promising that a vote for him is a vote for a guy who wants to improve Carolina.

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Staff Endorsements for Student Government

Tracy for student body president

With few viable choices, Tracy wins with experience

When it comes to the candidates for student body president, our choice of an endorsement was difficult — but for all the wrong reasons. When we sat down with each candidate, we did not see three highly qualified or inspiring leaders. We saw ambitious students who have their hearts in the right place, but who also struggle with serious flaws — flaws that justify USC students’ growing apathy for Student Government all together. None of the candidates truly seem ready for the demands of student body president, and we can only hope that the eventual winner takes serious time to consider how he or she can meet the demands both of SG and the USC student body as a whole.

After considering platforms and interviews with our staff, we have chosen to endorse Kenny Tracy for student body president.

Tracy has spent his three years with SG focused on both short- and long-term initiatives. He worked to create Carolina Cab out of Cocky’s Caravan, as well as contribute to the Student Legal Services initiative. His platform contains familiar themes from campaigns past, namely student ticketing, parking and moving CarolinaCard off campus — all issues that he plans to address and advance throughout his term. There is a well-maintained balance in his platform between what can be done within the limits of his term and what plans can be made for future projects. His experience with SG and his knowledge of what concerns students the most make him a valuable candidate and an easy choice in this year’s election.

But the phrase “an easy choice” is a conciliatory way of saying what we’re really thinking: Tracy is the safe choice. He has the credentials on paper, but in person he lacks a commanding presence. He is, admittedly, more of a behind-the-scenes personality. He said during the debate he’s “not the most creative person,” but works hard on initiatives when people propose them. While a strong work ethic is always preferable to someone in love with the spotlight, the student body



Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Daily Gamecock endorses Kenny Tracy for student body president in this year’s elections.

president must also bring fresh and new ideas to the office and serve as the face of the university. The position demands a sociable, outgoing personality — one that takes charge of a discussion, one that draws people in and excites them with a project. Tracy cannot claim to be that kind of president right now, and if he wins, the great test of his first months will be leaving the backstage and moving front and center as USC’s top student representative.

Tracy’s primary competition in our mind is John Cuenin, who at the time of publication leads our online poll. But our observation of Cuenin’s campaign is that it depends heavily on rhetoric — and little else. His extreme critique of SG aims to paint him as the race’s outsider candidate, even though he has been working in SG for two years with little to show for it. Furthermore, his commitment to diversity rings a little hollow given his joining Greek Life (a system he specifically said lacks and is adverse to diversity) soon after losing the vice presidential election last year — a move that we cannot help but believe he made less for the experience and more for the Greek vote.

Emily Saleeby is the SG insider to Cuenin’s

outsider attitude. But Saleeby hasn’t earned her way up the ladder. She got the senate pro tempore job when Eeshwar Chandrasekar resigned and then was handed the vice presidency after Katie Thompson stepped down. The elephant in the room for Saleeby’s campaign is Alex Waelde, the founder of drinkingticket.com and an ironic staff choice for a candidate who wants to work with police to promote student safety. More importantly, she openly and directly admitted to us that she did not know how to reach out to students. She’s since rescinded that comment, saying during her campaign she’s visited student organizations and learned how outreach is accomplished, but we can’t help but wonder how she went her whole term as vice president before this campaign not knowing.

All told, Tracy is the best choice for USC. As student body president, he can ensure that whatever work has been done this past year will continue and ultimately bear satisfactory results. He is not the ideal candidate, but he is the best out of the field. A vote for Tracy is a vote giving a candidate the chance to grow from a strong foundation, and that’s about all USC students can hope for from this election.

Unopposed, Mizzell wins endorsement

VP candidate impresses staff with leadership

When faced with an uncontested race, many candidates relax their campaigns and welcome their inevitable win — but not Chase Mizzell. If anything, Mizzell has



MIZZELL

shown as much drive and tenacity in his race for student body vice president as fellow competitors for other offices. No matter the nature of this race, Mizzell still shows a commitment to proving himself to the student body.

For that reason — and not solely by default — do we endorse Chase Mizzell for student body vice president.

When we asked Mizzell about his campaign, the conversation turned to what seems to be his favorite topic — leadership. He wants to transform Student Government from being solely a group that serves the student body into one that makes its members better leaders when they leave.

Mizzell can back up his talk of mentorship with a record of experience and a refreshing attitude toward SG initiatives. His work with Freshmen Council, Student Senate, Ambassadors and Empower have all given him the chance to engage students and learn about what problems they face. He appears open and receptive to these problems, but maintains a commitment of his own: He is not a candidate that makes promises that he cannot keep. He instead wants to focus on initiatives that he can accomplish: Student Legal Services, a bike share program with Columbia and a food pantry for students on food stamps. He is a candidate focused on results, not talking points.

Despite only vying for the vice presidency, we are sure that this is not the last time Mizzell will be speaking to us for an endorsement. He has earned it this time, and we are hopeful that his term in SG will continue to produce results for USC.

Gibson earns support with experience, innovation

Treasurer hopeful perfect fit for position

The role of student body treasurer is not the most glamorous one. It often involves strong financial skills, inexhaustible patience and razor-sharp attention to detail. When student organization leaders are angry that they did not receive what they consider a fair amount of student funding the first door they knock on is the treasurer’s door. The ideal treasurer must have the experience to deal with both these complaints and the overarching financial structure of Student Government.

Experience is the key word here, and it is why we have chosen to endorse Coy Gibson for student body treasurer.

A candidate for treasurer

must always prove that he can actually do the job — neither politics nor any amount of charisma can cover it up. Gibson’s time as chair of the Senate Finance Committee has given him an invaluable knowledge of SG’s financial system and needs, as well as first-hand knowledge of the struggles that student organizations face when it comes to applying for support. He showed a familiarity with Student Senate codes and budgetary requirements that seemed almost surreal. It was hard for us to remember that he was a candidate and not the treasurer already.

This experience does not just mean that he will blindly continue policies that are already in place. Gibson hopes that already having the training necessary for the job can push SG finances more toward collaboration and communication with student organizations. The comptrollers — an unknown and ignored office — under

Gibson would become the link between organizations and SG and give student leaders someone they can turn to when allocations are refused. For Gibson, the treasurer is someone who follows the rules set in place, but also builds a support system that makes sure those rules are understood by everyone. Experience prepares him for the first role and his campaign promises to create the second.

Gibson’s opponent, Yousef Ibreak, is appealing in his friendliness and willingness to work. However, the experience just is not there. Being treasurer in high school of a budget of \$5,000 cannot prepare you to handle more than 380 organizations all fighting for a piece of nearly \$180,000. The challenge is just too much for someone whose only experience with SG is Freshman Council. However, given another year of involvement, Ibreak could make a strong contender for the treasurer’s office — or any other office he sets his sights on.

The only concern for Gibson is how students see him. When he came to his meeting with the editorial staff, he brought manila folders filled with copies of budget allocations and student Senate codes. He meant business, and he was out to prove that he was the man for the job. However, we fear that this is not the image communicated by his advertising efforts. Posters where he poses as Steve Jobs really have very little to do with what we saw from Gibson — a glorified accountant if there ever was one. We can only hope that students see Gibson for the experienced candidate that he is and not the confusing image that his campaign has attempted to portray.

Finances are a touchy and often painful subject for both individual students and student groups alike. The tough financial times demand a treasurer that students can put their faith in. With his experience and platform hopes, Gibson is that treasurer.

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community.

All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length

and include the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

About The Daily Gamecock

The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

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Get your Valentine's Day movie fix on Netflix

Sydney Patterson
SPATTERSON@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

It's Valentine's Day eve, and even though V-Day lands on a Tuesday night this year, some romance is definitely in order to celebrate the holiday of love. If you haven't made any plans yet, don't panic. The classic "dinner and a movie" date is still an option, even for a broke college couple. Get your "V-day on a budget" with Netflix. (And if you don't have an account to use, start your monthlong free trial for the special occasion.) Here's a list of romantic movies available to stream on Netflix.



"Breakfast at Tiffany's"

1961

In one of the most iconic roles of her career, Audrey Hepburn stars as Holly Golightly, a naïve New Yorker who falls in love with new neighbor Paul Verjak (George Peppard). "Breakfast at Tiffany's" is a classic, so if old-school movies aren't your thing, this may not be the date movie for you. But if you can suspend your disbelief and allow yourself to identify with an entirely different time, it's definitely worth a watch.

"Never Been Kissed"

1999

A romantic comedy from a time when romantic comedies were actually funny, "Never Been Kissed" stars Drew Barrymore as Josie Geller, a newspaper writer who is assigned to go undercover in a high school and report on inappropriate student-teacher relationships. She was a total dork in high school, so she puts the "do-over" to good use, but falls in love with her own teacher. Hilarity ensues as she tries to complete her assignment. Barrymore shines in all her lovable '90s glory, and the movie includes some humor even the most cynical of guys can enjoy.



"Practical Magic"

1998

"Practical Magic" puts an unusual twist on the story of modern-day witches, Sally and Gillian Owens. Under a unique and terrible curse, the sisters, played by Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman, respectively, discover love, heartbreak and the meaning of family. Despite the emotion and the magic, the movie is a feel-good and relatable drama starring some very talented actresses. But watch out, it's definitely a chick flick.



"No Strings Attached"

2011

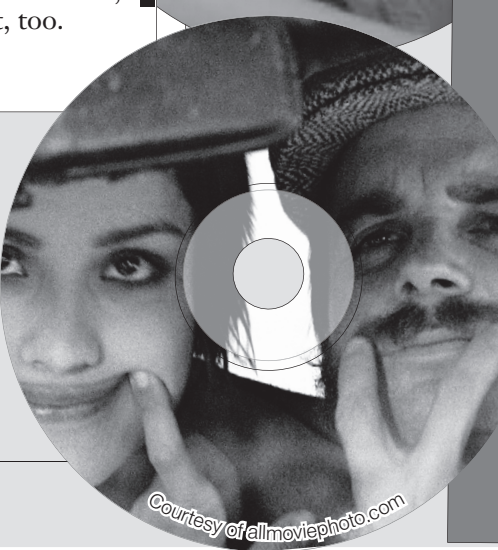
A perfectly predictable romantic comedy, "No Strings Attached" stars Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher as friends who decide to add certain benefits to their relationship. You can guess the rest, but don't write it off. The movie has some unpredictable and really hilarious moments, making it a great date movie without overdoing it on the romance. Its twin, "Friends with Benefits," a movie with the exact same plot that was released the same year, isn't available to stream, but if you can stand a trip to a Blockbuster or Redbox, check that one out, too.



"Wristcutters: A Love Story"

2006

On the completely opposite end of the comedic spectrum, "Wristcutters: A Love Story," is a dark comedy/romance centered around a guy, Zia (Patrick Fugit), who kills himself after being dumped by his girlfriend Desiree (Leslie Bibb). That decision sends him to a very peculiar afterlife for people who've committed suicide, where he meets Mikal (Shannyn Sossamon) and Eugene (Shea Whigham). He finds out that Desiree also committed suicide and sets out with Eugene and Mikal to find her. The indie drama, an unpredictable and fresh take on life, love and death, is not for the faint of heart. It's often slightly depressing and sometimes very weird, but ultimately a hilarious and interesting movie that will really get you thinking.



Comments on this story?
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'The Vow' gives viewers unrealistic, boring love story

Forgettable plot, weak performances make Nicholas Sparks wannabe fall flat

Tyler Simpson
TSIMPSON@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Just the fact that "The Vow" was released on a Valentine's Day weekend spells out the film's target audience. But this box-office draw alone can't save this Nicholas Sparks wannabe from being completely forgettable one year down the road. Supposedly, "The Vow" is based on a real life couple, but what we have here is a prime example of the vague use of the "based on a true story" aspect. This is a "something similar sort of happened like this" story, making the actual story just a jumping point for this terrible screenplay. Nicholas Sparks film veterans Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams play young, attractive newly-wed couple Leo and Paige. They're basically the ideal bohemian couple, with Paige pursuing a career as a sculptor and Leo running his own recording studio and living the greeting-card life. Tragedy strikes when the couple stops in the middle of an intersection one night to make out. Their car gets rear-ended by a truck and Paige is sent flying through the windshield in a slow-motion sequence that makes it seem like Zack Snyder took over director duties. Paige wakes up in a hospital in surprisingly good condition except for one very inconvenient problem: she can't remember anything about her relationship with Leo. Realizing that there's no way for Paige to

recover her memory, Leo decides that the best thing to do is make his wife fall in love with him again. Unfortunately, he realizes falling in love the second time around isn't as easy as the first time.

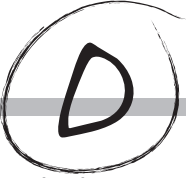
Sam Neill ("Jurassic Park") and Jessica Lange ("King



Courtesy of beyondhollywood.com
Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams star in "The Vow."

"The Vow" NOW IN THEATERS

Director: Michael Sucsy
Starring: Channing Tatum, Rachel McAdams
Rating: PG-13 for an accident scene, sexual content, partial nudity and some language



Kong") play Paige's cold, estranged parents who are thrilled by this whole brain damage situation because it means they get their daughter back. They play completely dramatized versions of snobby, rich parents, and I've seen better acting from them both when they were pitted against special effect-based monsters. "Underworld's" Scott Speedman plays Paige's slick, conceited ex-fiancé, Jeremy, who also takes advantage of Paige's situation. He's the typical chick-flick jerk who is Leo's rival for Paige's affections. This movie constantly plays out like a dark, cliché-ridden combination of "Meet the Parents" (2000) and "50 First Dates" (2004), with a contrived liberal versus conservative/high-class versus low-class plot less subtle than a daytime soap-opera. That's not to say that screenwriters Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein ("Valentine's Day") don't try to clobber us with cleverness. For instance, the café where Leo and Paige have their first date is called Café Mnemonic. Get it? "The Vow" may have its sweet moments and an innocent story about how true love conquers all, but it misses the key aspect that makes for a great romance film: the audience has to fall for the characters. This movie exhibits nothing even resembling a spark between McAdams and Tatum. Even though time is spent through flashbacks to invest us in Leo and Paige's relationship, the terrible writing makes it difficult to see them as a couple deeply in love rather than actors trying to collect a paycheck. In fact, more chemistry is apparent between Leo and his assistant, making me wish that Leo would forget about Paige and instead get with the woman who runs

Whitney Houston passes on eve of Grammys



The world lost a legendary voice on Feb. 11. Award-winning singer and actress Whitney Houston passed away Saturday at age 48. The cause of her death is currently unknown.

Houston, who began her career in the early '80s, was best known for chart-topping songs like the dance pop hit "I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)" and "I Will Always Love You," the ballad which many critics describe as her signature song. Houston won six Grammy awards during her career.

The singer also gained recognition for her roles in "The Bodyguard," "Waiting to Exhale" and "The Preacher's Wife."

Houston married R&B singer Bobby Brown in 1992 and the couple had a daughter, Bobbi Kristina, in 1993. Houston and Brown's rocky relationship was chronicled in the reality television series "Being Bobby Brown" and they divorced in 2007.

Sunday night's Grammy awards ceremony included a musical tribute to the late singer, including a performance by Jennifer Hudson.

— Compiled by Kristyn Winch, Assistant Mix Editor

Courtesy of MCT Campus

VOW ● Continued from 6

his business.

Tatum means well, but it's all too apparent that he was cast for looks and not his acting talents as we see him bare-chested as much as possible in this film. He's a good-looking guy and no doubt tries his best with any role he's given, but he has the range of a field goal kicker with a torn ACL. McAdams is a lovely woman and seems like the perfect candidate for this kind of role, but even she can't make the best out of what she is given. We see her character change from an artistic, liberal woman who's willing to marry in an art gallery, to a suburban, tedious conservative who's not even the least bit curious about the five years of memory she lost.

On that note, it makes it more difficult to cheer for this couple when amnesiac patient Paige acts like she doesn't even want to remember Leo.

"The Vow" works as a decent date-night film, but otherwise, it's a completely misguided attempt to attain an emotional response from the audience.

Comments on this story? Visit dailygamecock.com/mix



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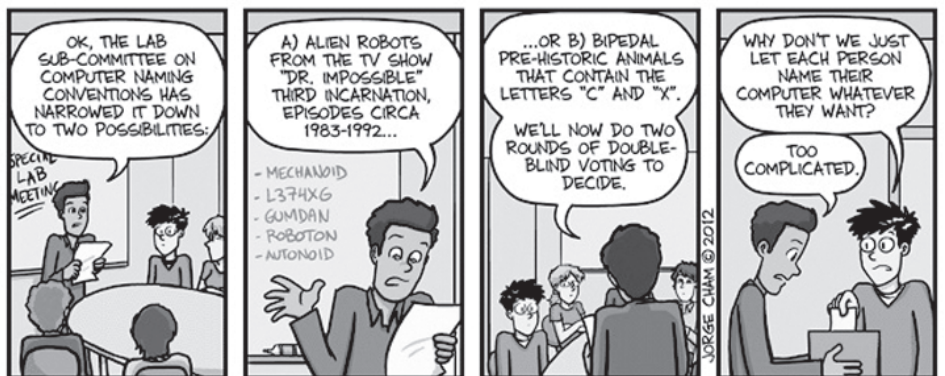
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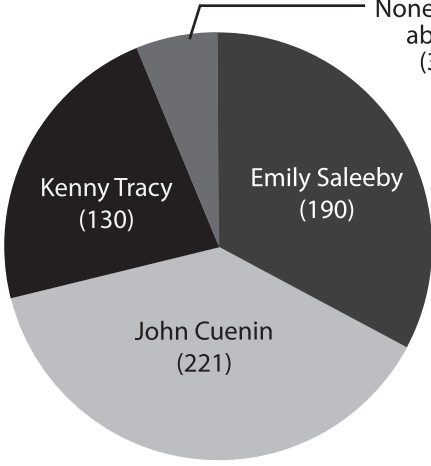
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4				3				
	4	3	2			7		
5	8						3	9
		6			3	1	5	
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	3			5		1		
			4	1	2			

Level 1234

How to Play
Complete the grid so each
row, column AND 3-by-3 box
(in bold borders) contains
every digit 1 to 9.


Solution for 02/10/12

8	1	3	4	5	6	7	9	2
7	6	2	9	8	3	1	5	4
9	4	5	1	2	7	6	3	8
4	3	8	5	7	2	9	6	1
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5	2	4	7	9	8	3	1	6
1	8	7	6	3	5	4	2	9
3	9	6	2	4	1	8	7	5

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Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 02/13/12

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5 Spider's creations
9 "Beat it!"
14 Steinbeck's Tom
Joad, e.g.
15 Afghanistan's
western neighbor
16 Fabric with a
repeated scenic
pattern
17 National
consensus
20 Metal playing
marble
21 Sincere
22 Propelled with
skulls
23 Camembert
cousin
24 Malice
27 Cooks on a spit
32 Biol. or chem.
35 Burn soothers
37 Turn on a pivot
38 Deerstalker's
excitement
42 Grows darker
43 Clark Kent's birth
name
44 Sound of fan
support
45 Garlicky shrimp
dish
48 Ran at an easy
pace
50 Not taken in by
52 Hairdresser
Sassoon
56 "The Four
Seasons"
composer
60 Rock fissure
62 Dark, quiet period
64 Davis who was
married to Ruby
Dee
65 Word with
pyramid or chain
66 Cut down on 65-
Across
67 Hymn of praise
68 Females with pig
tails
69 Means' justifiers
DOWN

1 "In what way?"
2 Japanese canine
3 Long-distance
runner
4 Brawls
5 Hi-tech airport
connection
6 One-named

Deco artist
7 Scroogean
exclamation
8 Derisive look
9 More than mono
10 Masked critter
11 Ready for picking
12 "___ well that ends
well"
13 Track
competition
18 Longtime chum
19 Part of a poker
full house
23 Bovine hybrid
25 Unwell
26 Stole
28 Volcanic output
29 Defamatory
remark
30 Yellowfin or
albacore
31 Fourth man
32 Norms: Abbr.
33 Fashionable
34 Culinary author
Rombauer
36 WWII Normandy
battle site
39 Doctrinal suffix
40 Cool, like a cat
41 Craps natural
46 Hay fever
sufferer's
nemesis
47 ___-European

Solutions from 02/10/12

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languages
49 Split
51 Petty quarrels
53 "Bon appétit,"
from mom
54 Was sore after a
workout
55 Riga natives
56 Cognac bottle
letters
57 "___ Small World"
58 Carpenter's
clamp
59 Et ___: and others
60 Vittles
61 Cincinnati team

63 Also

Women’s basketball beats UF

Gamecocks match last season’s total in SEC victories with win

Kyle Heck
KHECK@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Written on the bottom of freshman forward Pamela Decheva’s shoes is the phrase, “NCAA we are coming.”

The Gamecocks took another step towards proving that statement on Sunday with a 62-58 victory over the Florida Gators.

As the calendar inches closer and closer towards March, there will be more and more talk of the Gamecocks reaching the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2008. USC coach Dawn Staley is pleased with the postseason talk.

“Considering that we haven’t been to the Big Dance (NCAA tournament) in three years, I think it’s volatile,” Staley said. “I think we put ourselves in the position to be talked about for the NCAA tournament. I would rather we take in that information with a legitimate shot at going, rather than just hoping and praying.”

The Gamecocks almost let this one slip away as they let a 10-point halftime lead dwindle away in the second half. A jumper by Florida’s Deana Allen tied the score at

54 with 6:33 left in the game.

However, UF could not pull in front and a little over a minute later, senior Markeshia Grant drilled a 3-pointer from the corner that gave the Gamecocks a three-point lead they would not relinquish. Grant finished with a game high 20 points, with five of six from 3-point range.

“I think before I hit that [3-pointer], we got a defensive stop that got us fired up,” Grant said. “I hit [it] and that gave us more momentum. We were getting really good looks but we just weren’t finishing.”

The first half was a completely different story as the Gamecocks virtually made every look they got. USC shot 52 percent in the first 20 minutes and made seven of ten three-point attempts to carry a 43-33 lead into halftime.

Staley gave credit to the home crowd when asked about the explosive first half.

“Our marketing department did a good job of getting people in the stands,” Staley said. “If we didn’t have them cheering us on, I don’t know if we could [have] found the energy. We looked a little tired at the end of the game, but luckily we were home. I don’t think we [could have won] this game any other place other than Colonial Life Arena.”

After going up by five with a little over four minutes to play, the Gamecocks went cold from the field and a turnover by Ieasia Walker allowed the Gators to pull within one at 59-58.

The score stayed that way for nearly two minutes until senior La’Keisha Sutton made an acrobatic layup with 32 seconds left that put USC (19-6, 8-4 SEC) back up by three. A free throw by Sutton with one second left shut the door on Florida.

“La’Keisha is a good free throw shooter so if they fouled her, we wanted her on the line,” Staley said. “We just cleared it out and let her either lead us to victory or to the agony of defeat. Luckily for us, she made the basket.”

With two of the remaining four games for the Gamecocks coming against ranked teams and one against a red-hot Arkansas squad, Staley is taking each game one at a time and hopes the tough stretch will prepare her team for the postseason.

“We will turn the page and get ready for Georgia,” Staley said. “I don’t think it will be too hard to get up for a ranked team. It all goes back to our preparation and I’m not going to use the NCAA tournament (as motivation), I’m just going to use what this team built its winning tradition on and



Lee Walker / THE DAILY GAMECOCK
USC guard Markeshia Grant finished with a game-high 20 points in the win over UF.

that is preparation.”

These next four games will decide if Carolina does, in fact, return to the NCAA tournament and, according to Staley, “if we don’t do things the way we are supposed to, then that is going to signal to me that we are not ready.”

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Softball wins Palmetto Classic



Elissa Visotski / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC shortstop Samie Garcia (12) had two hits and two runs in the Palmetto Classic Tournament, which the Gamecocks won.

Senior outfielder Kaitlin Westfall named MVP

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The South Carolina softball team played their way to a 3-1 record to start the year, as it hosted, and ultimately won, the Palmetto Classic Tournament.

In their first official action of the season, the Gamecocks looked shaky at the start of Friday’s game against Tennessee State.

The bottom of the first inning saw the Tigers go up early after some mistakes by the South Carolina defense. After TSU’s leadoff hitter reached base, two throwing errors allowed her to move all they way to home plate.

Later in the inning, South Carolina pitcher Kierstyn White delivered an illegal pitch, which allowed another TSU run, putting the Gamecocks behind by two.

Coach Beverly Smith didn’t worry too much about the early mistakes.

“I think it was just first-game jitters,” Smith said, “because that wasn’t the team that’s been out at practice every day for us, so I think the girls just needed to shake some of that.”

South Carolina rebounded in the next half inning, as catcher Shelby Gonzales knocked in two runs on a single and tied the game; however, Tennessee State immediately put another two-spot on the scoreboard in the bottom of the second inning, and the Gamecocks’ offense couldn’t muster up another run as they dropped their opener, 4-2.

Day two of the Palmetto Classic, more fortuitous than the day before, saw South Carolina sweep a doubleheader.

First up on Saturday, the Gamecocks

took on Western Kentucky, who wasted no time in putting up two runs in the top of the first before senior outfielder Kaitlin Westfall took over.

The Gamecocks tallied a run in the fifth, and Westfall added another in the sixth, courtesy of her RBI triple, which pushed the game into extra innings after a scoreless seventh. After her team fell behind 4-2 in the top of the eighth, Westfall had seen enough.

With one out and runners on first and third in the bottom of the eighth inning, she shot a double to centerfield and tied the game once again. Two batters later, sophomore Dana Hathorn singled and Westfall, who was named the tournament MVP, scored the winning run from third, giving the Gamecocks a 5-4 comeback victory — their first of the 2012 season.

Redshirt junior pitcher Audrey Broyles pitched a complete game, allowing four earned runs — two in the first and two in the eighth — in a performance that Smith appreciated.

“I thought Audrey Broyles did a super job yesterday against a very aggressive Western Kentucky team,” Smith said. “She had command over multiple pitches, she had seven strikeouts, I believe, so she did a super job throwing the complete game against them, which was great.”

Luckily for South Carolina, the momentum from the early game’s heroics carried them through their late game against in-state rival Winthrop.

The Gamecocks refused to play from behind as they had in their first two games, and put up four runs in the top of the first, with Westfall bringing home the game’s first run. The rest came easy for South Carolina, as sophomore outfielder Chelsea Hawkins blasted her first home run of the season and

drove in four runs to lead the team to a convincing 8-1 victory over the Eagles.

Smith was satisfied with the way everyone contributed to the team’s victories.

“For us it’s all about what we’re going to get done as a team,” Smith said. “I thought the girls that came off the bench did their job, as well as our starters, and it all worked really well together. I was proud of our team effort.”

In their final matchup of the busy weekend, the Gamecocks came out red-hot in icy weather against Cleveland State.

After each team posted a run in the first inning, South Carolina broke it open in the third and never looked back. The team put four runs on the board in the inning, the first of which was commissioned solely by Gonzalez, who doubled and then flew around the base paths, stealing third and then crossing the plate due to a throwing error.

Three batters later, senior third baseman Evan Childs ripped a two-run homer over the left field wall. Cleveland State threatened in the sixth, recording a desperate home run that scored three Vikings, but freshman Katelynn Howser came in to pitch after the homer and controlled the next two innings, bringing home the Gamecocks’ third win, 7-4.

The big plays by her seniors, Westfall and Childs, were something Smith liked to see.

“Westfall and Childs both had a big tournament for us,” Smith said. “That’s what we need. They’re both seniors, they’re both experienced players and we need them to step up in clutch situations, and they did that.”

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BOT approves coaches’ raises

Spurrier set to make \$3.3 million after \$475,000 raise

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After USC’s first 11-win football season and second consecutive national baseball championship, the head coaches in both sports have been awarded accordingly big-time salary bumps.

Head football coach Steve Spurrier will make \$3.3 million after being awarded a \$475,000 raise from the USC board of trustees. Tanner received a \$140,000 pay increase, which will bring his annual salary to \$650,000, and a one-year contract extension to 2016. Tanner has also been named special adviser to USC President Harris Pastides for community outreach.

Athletics director Eric Hyman acknowledged that the prices were high, but said the intangibles attached to the two successful programs are worth the dollars.

“It’s hard to put a figure on exactly,” Hyman said. “If you talk about everything, if you talk about the exposure the university gets, the sense of pride, the increase of attendance, it’s hard to put the intangibles and tangibles, it’s hard to quantify [how much a winning team is worth] ... The amount of exposure, the people who watch us and participate, it’s increased exponentially over the years and a lot of it has to do with the success of our baseball program, our football program, our women’s basketball program.”

Hyman said he didn’t know what Tanner’s special adviser role would specifically entail, but it was announced during the board meeting that his outreach would “not interfere with his coaching.”

“It’s what he does,” Hyman said. “He is so good about reaching out into the community and this just recognizes him for the service that he’s provided for the state of South Carolina.”

The board of trustees also voted for the first time in history to give all eight of Spurrier’s assistant coaches — both new and returning — multi-year contracts. The four returning assistants will receive raises.

Former defensive backs coach Lorenzo Ward, who was promoted to defensive coordinator when Ellis Johnson left for a head coaching job at Southern Miss, will receive a \$270,000 raise, bringing his salary to \$550,000 for 2012.

Offensive line coach Shawn Elliot will get a \$115,000 raise, wide receivers coach Steve Spurrier Jr. will get a \$75,000 raise, and defensive line coach Brad Lawing will get a \$50,000 raise; all three will have \$300,000 salaries in 2012.

As for new coaches, Joe Robinson, special teams coordinator and tight ends coach, will make \$280,000; linebackers coach Kirk Botkin and running backs coach Everett Sands will make \$185,000; and safeties coach Grady Brown will make \$150,000.

Hyman said Spurrier had requested the contracts, and Hyman said he was glad the board acquiesced.

“That’s what Steve asked, and we were able to accommodate him,” Hyman said. “That’s what he’d like to have for his coaches and we were able to do that.”

Head men’s soccer coach Mark Berson and head softball coach Beverly Smith will both get four-year deals and receive a \$100,000 and \$106,638, respectively, with incentive options depending on how well their teams do.

Spurrier’s raise makes him the eighth-highest paid coach in the nation and the fourth-highest paid coach in the SEC, behind Alabama’s Nick Saban (\$4.8 million), LSU’s Les Miles (\$3.9 million), Arkansas’s Bobby Petrino (\$3.6 million) and Auburn’s Gene Chizik (\$3.5 million). Hyman said that’s just the price of competing in the SEC.

“The good news is, it’s the best league in the country. The bad news is, it’s the best league in the country,” Hyman joked. He added later that Spurrier’s accomplishments at USC merited the money.

“At South Carolina, the football program’s been spectacular,” Hyman said. “We’ve won 20 games in the last two years. You look at what South Carolina has achieved ... look at all the firsts they’ve accomplished. Coach Spurrier’s very reasonable, very fair. As everybody’ll tell you, the program is headed in the right direction.”

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